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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Kenneth Edwin THOMAS et al.  
International  
Application No.: PCT/NZ99/00176  
International  
Filing Date: 15 October, 1999  
For: REMOTE ACCESS AND SECURITY SYSTEM

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 23 and 24 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Kindly rewrite claims 3, 5, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14 and 18-20 as follows:

3. (Amended) A remote access control system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the access control data includes operator control unit identification data, operator identification data and access controller identification data.

5. (Amended) A remote access control system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the identity structure is encrypted and can only be deciphered by selected access controllers and the central control means.

8. (Amended) A remote access control system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first communication means includes a wide area communications network.

9. (Amended) A remote access control system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the second communication means includes a wide area communications network.